INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Chaney for the helpful and courteous discussion with Applicants' Representative on March 3, 2006. During this discussion it was noted that Suzuki only a pulverized mixture that passes a 200 mesh. However, Suzuki fail to disclose or suggest a polyamide powder as claimed with polyamide particles having a d 50 of from 20 to 90 μm, a content of fines < 5 μm of below 1% by weight, and at least 75% by weight of spherical particles in which all three spatial axes x, y and z of the individual particles have the same dimension to within ±10%. The Examiner appeared to agree that the reference does not appear to anticipate the present invention.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

The present invention as set forth in **Claim 1** relates to a polyamide powder, comprising polyamide particles having

a median grain size d 50 of from 20 to 90 μm,

a content of fines < 5 μm of below 1% by weight, and

at least 75% by weight of spherical particles in which all three spatial axes x, y and z of the individual particles have the same dimension to within ±10%.

In contrast, Suzuki fail to disclose or suggest a polyamide powder as claimed with polyamide particles having a d 50 of from 20 to 90 μm, a content of fines < 5 μm of below 1% by weight, and at least 75% by weight of spherical particles in which all three spatial axes x, y and z of the individual particles have the same dimension to within ±10%.

All that Suzuki discloses in Example 2 (referred to by the Examiner) is a 200-mesh pass powder. No other specifications of the powder are given.

Further the claimed powder of the present invention exhibits superior properties which are not disclosed or suggested by Suzuki. The powder of the invention from example 1 were used for coating metal pipes. For comparison, a number of commercially available polyamide powders (Degussa AG) were used. These are VESTOSINT 1111 black, VESTOSINT 1174 white, and VESTOSINT 2157 black. The results are given in Table 1 below which is copied from page 10 of the specification.

Table 1

Coating trials

Product	d 50	< 5%	Proportion of spherical particles	Pipe layer thickness achieved	Max. radial layer thickness difference	Dusting	Fluidization
	[µm]	[%]	[%]	[µm]	[µm]	[sec]	[grade]
Polyamide powder A	52	0.1	84	120	<5	<5	1-2
VESTOSINT 2157	57	0.5	~70	120	10	10	3
VESTOSINT 1111	100	0.1	~65	200	<5	<5	1
VESTOSINT 1174	40	8	~70	130	20	>15	5

The data in the Table are discussed in the specification at pages 10 and 11 as follows:

The polyamide powder of the invention gave a very homogeneous coating on the metal pipe, the quality of the coating reaching that of a traditional fluidized-bed-coating powder. In terms of dusting and fluidization, the powder exhibits comparably good processing properties. The polyamide powder of the invention can achieve desired layer thicknesses below 200µm. Satisfactory layer thicknesses of 120µm could be achieved in the trial reproducibly, without defects.

In contrast, the only layer thicknesses which could be achieved in comparable quality using commercially available fluidized-bed-coating powders were 200µm and above.

Conventional, commercially available minicoating powders and conventional, commercially available fine powders exhibit markedly poorer fluidization properties in comparison, and more dusting at the fluidizing pan.

Although coherent layers of from 120 to 130 µm could be achieved on the test system, these exhibit markedly greater coating inhomogeneity, attributed mainly to the poorer fluidizing behavior.

The above superior properties are not disclosed or suggested by Suzuki.

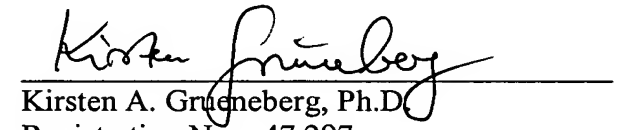
Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Suzuki (US 5,139,821) is believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge that the references cited in the **Information Disclosure Statement, filed in the above-identified application on December 11, 2003,** have been considered. For the Examiner's convenience a copy of Form PTO 1449 as filed on **December 11, 2003** is attached herewith.

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



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Form PTO 1449 (Modified) — U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

ATTY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
233810US0	10/624,528
APPLICANT: Dirk HEINRICH, et al.	
FILING DATE: July 23, 2003	GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	4,687,838	08/18/1987	S. MUMCU, et al.			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						
	AL						
	AM						
	AN						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION YES	TRANSLATION NO
	AO	0 536 791	04/14/1993	EUROPE		
	AP	44 21 454	12/21/1995	GERMANY		X
	AQ	0 863 174	09/09/1998	EUROPE		X
	AR					
	AS					
	AT					
	AU					
	AV					

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	AW	
	AX	
	AY	
	AZ	

☐ Additional References sheet(s) attached

Examiner — Date Considered

*Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.